UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
H-17

August 31, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON HOPS

- - - - - - -

HOP SITUATION IN AUGUST 1928

A reduction in the stocks of old hops in Great Britain and prospects of little, if any, increase this year in the production of hops in England are factors favorable to the marketing of American hops in that country. On the other hand, a probable increase in Canadian hop production may tend to decrease the Canadian demand for our hops.

Total acreage reported for the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom for 1928 is 50,769 acres compared with 48,641 acres in 1927. British and Canadian acreages are both reported as larger than last year as well as the United States acreage. British conditions have not been favorable and the crop is not expected to be much, if any, larger than the small harvest in 1927. British stocks of domestic hops have been reduced by the short crop of 1927 and by sales of 1924 and 1925 crop supplies which should strengthen somewhat the British demand for hops. No report is available on the hop acreage in Belgium which also competes with the United States to some extent in supplying the British market. Peronospora has appeared in Belgian vineyards again this year. Last year's crop suffered particularly from this pest.

British takings of United States hops in the first eleven months following the 1927 harvest were somewhat larger than for that period the preceding season and were also larger than the total takings for any year since the British duty went into effect. Canadian takings of hops from the United States, the principal foreign source of supply, have decreased with the increase in Canadian production and in the year ended March 31, 1928 were the smallest in the past 9 years.

Conditions of hops on the continent of Europe were less favorable the middle of August than at the same time last year, according to trade reports, but these hops do not compete to any extent with American hops.

United States

The acreage in the United States is placed at 25,600 acres, an increase of 1,000 acres over last year's area, according to the August report of the Crop Reporting Board. On the basis of conditions the first of August the crop is forecast at 33,300,000 pounds, which is an increase of 3,500,000 pounds over the 1927 production, and larger than any crop reported since 1920. For detailed report of acreage and production in the United States and other countries in 1927 and earlier years, see table, pages 7 and 8.

Canada

An additional 332 acres planted to hops in 1927 in British Columbia will come into bearing this fall, indicating a total acreage of 1,369 acres hops to be harvested as compared with 1,037 reported for 1927. In view of the large crop expected this year arrangements have been made for 2,000 workers, 50 per cent more than last year, to harvest the crop, according to a trade report. Practically the total Canadian hop crop is grown in British Columbia. According to the census of 1921, Ontario, the only other province where hops are grown, reported only 4 acres planted to this crop. Prior to 1925 the Canadian hop acreage showed very little change from year to year, the acreage harvested being about 500 acres annually. In 1925 about 1,000 acres of land suitable for hop cultivation, in the reclaimed area of the Sumas district, were placed on the market (see Foreign Service Release No. 15, October 11, 1927, page 3). This was largely taken up and planted to hops by experienced growers from the United States Pacific Coast. Part of the new land came into bearing for the first time in 1927. The acreage harvested that year was placed at 1,037 acres as compared with 594 in 1926. A crop of 1,426,000 pounds was harvested, the yield per acre was low as compared with earlier years, however, being only 1,375 pounds as compared with 1,644 pounds, the average yield for the five year period 1922-1926. The quality of the hops was said to be very satisfactory.

The increased production of hops in Canada is reflected in the nternational trade statistics. In the table given on the following page it may be noted that imports of hops have been steadily decreasing since 1922-23 with the exception of 1924-25 when there was a slight increase over the previous year. The United States continues to be the chief source of supply. Exports of hops from Canada, which showed a falling off during the period 1923-24 to 1926-27, increased from 258,000 pounds in 1926-27 to 869,000 in 1927-28. The trade statistics indicate also that a larger proportion of the Canadian crop is being used in the domestic brewing industry. According to trade estimates the Canadian breweries consumed 2,614,597 pounds of hops in 1926 as compared with 2,508,537 pounds in 1925. With a continued expansion of the hop industry Canadian imports may show a further decline. A trade report quoting the Provincial Horticulturist for British Columbia states that an unlimited area of land could be secured which would be suitable for hop growing. The limiting factor has probably been the amount of capital required at the outset, the report states.

HOPS: Canadian imports and exports, by countries, fiscal years 1919-20 to 1927-28

Year ending March 31	Imports				Exports		
	United Kingdom	United States	Other	Total	United Kingdom	Total	Net imports
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1920	32	1,752	67	1,851	--	7	1,844
1921	57	1,498	127	1,682	19	75	1,607
1922	46	2,056	40	2,142	769	781	1,361
1923	66	3,122	192	3,380	621	637	2,743
1924	79	2,626	126	2,831	898	899	1,932
1925	51	2,569	254	2,874	731	742	2,132
1926	103	2,303	307	2,713	257	261	2,452
1927	209	1,700	342	2,251	257	258	1,993
1928	142	1,466	461	2,069	843	869	1,200

Great Britain

The British hop acreage is reported at 23,800 acres, an increase of 800 acres over that of 1927. There has been no movement reported during the current season to cut down the acreage, similar to that in the past few years, probably due to the fact that last year's crop was small and sales of some of stocks from earlier crops appear to have cut down the supply on hand. The condition of hops in Great Britain the beginning of August was varied, but on the whole not too promising. In the southeastern countries the bine made fair growth during July but was still rather backward and inclined to be slack in nearly all gardens. In the western counties growth had been retarded by the hot, dry weather and the bine was stunted. Attacks of aphis and blight had been general and persistent. Yields were expected to be light, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Last year's yield per acre of 1,243 pounds was one of the lowest in the past 5 years and below the average of 1,433 pounds, but the average yield in this period has been higher than for any other similar period at least since 1909, so it is possible with the poor conditions reported so far this year that the crop may be no larger than last year, in spite of the increase in acreage. No indication of the quality of this year's crop is available. The 1927 crop was of good quality.

No definite report is available on the stocks of old crop hops still on hand, but present indications are that they are less burdensome than they have been in any of the past three or four years. It has been reported that the annual production in recent years has been about a third greater than the annual requirement of domestic hops, and in the spring of 1927 it was stated that there was the equivalent of one season's crop held in reserve by the English Hop Growers, Ltd., an organization founded to stabilize the supply of British hops. There were some hops sold during the year for fertilizer and a director of the company is reported as stating that 11,200,000 pounds of the 1924 crop and about 13,440,000 pounds of the 1925 crop had been sold at less than one cent per pound. Due to this reduction in stocks and to the small size of the 1927 crop which was about three-fourths the size of the 1926 crop and about two-thirds of the average for the three years 1924-1926, it is believed that the supply of old hops is much less burdensome than in recent years.

There has been some agitation to increase the duty on foreign hops recently in spite of the decrease in the British crop. In 1925 a duty was placed on importation of foreign hops into Great Britain amounting to approximately 16 cents a pound at par of exchange, effective October 1, 1925. British imports of hops from the United States decreased by over half in the year following the imposition of this duty, amounting to only 4,162,000 pounds in the year beginning September 1, 1925 compared with 8,417,000 the preceding year; and imports from other countries fell still further. The next year there was a slight increase and in the year just closing a further increase but imports, both from the United States and total, are still well below those before the levying of the duty. In 1925 and 1926 exports from the large British supplies more than balanced imports. For the period September through July of 1927-28 following the small British crop British imports from the United States were 6,005,000 pounds compared with 4,676,000 pounds the corresponding period in 1926-27, and 4,726,000 for the total 12 months last year. Exports were small in this period leaving a net import of 8,660,000 pounds compared with a net export of 968,000 pounds for the same period a year ago.

HOPS: Acreage, production and trade in the United Kingdom for crop years 1924 to 1927

Crop year and month	Acreage	Production	Trade, year beginning September 1: Imports: From United States	Imports: From other countries	Imports: Total	Exports	Net imports (+ = net exports)
	Acres	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1924	25,897	49,840	8,417	1,647	10,064	4,623	5,441
1925	26,256	39,760	4,162	734	4,896	9,583	+ 4,687
1926	25,599	37,184	4,726	1,085	5,811	6,948	+ 1,137
Sept-July	---	---	4,676	1,084	5,760	6,728	+ 968
September			61	33	94	440	+ 346
October			82	32	114	390	+ 276
November			259	23	282	378	+ 96
December			1,023	288	1,311	269	1,043
January			899	77	976	368	608
February			1,277	322	1,599	218	1,381
March			512	4	516	1,429	+ 913
April			173	1	174	1,602	+ 1,428
May			154	180	334	984	+ 650
June			198	6	204	531	+ 328
July			38	118	156	119	37
August			50	1	51	221	170
1927	23,004	28,560	---	---	---	---	---
Sept-July	---	---	6,005	4,836	10,841	2,181	8,660
September			177	90	267	165	102
October			494	533	1,027	192	835
November			2,239	1,431	3,670	97	3,573
December			1,256	1,259	2,515	192	2,323
January			1,042	424	1,466	162	1,304
February			428	537	965	195	770
March			147	309	456	313	143
April			58	61	119	150	+ 31
May			56	37	93	378	+ 285
June			99	82	181	194	+ 13
July			9	73	82	143	+ 61
August							
1928, prel.	23,800						

Compiled from Accounts Relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom.

Production of beer in the United Kingdom which had been decreasing from 1924 to 1926 increased slightly for the six months ending September 1927, the latest period for which figures are available, amounting to 10,633,000 barrels compared with 10,534,000 for the corresponding period the preceding year.

UNITED KINGDOM: Hop prices, consumption, and beer production and consumption

Year beginning April 1	Average price per pound of English hops, season Sept-March a/	Hop consumption b/ c/	Beer brewed b/	Beer retained for consumption	
				Total amount	Per capita
	Cents	1,000 lbs.	1,000 standard barrels	1,000 standard barrels	Gallons
1922	d/ 47.47	36,900	18,564	20,006	16.2
1923	d/ 59.20	39,200	19,890	20,570	16.6
1924	d/ 40.42	42,000	20,954	21,952	17.3
1925	51.91	38,640	21,034	21,034	16.7
1926	50.97	38,640	19,745	20,800	16.5
Six months - April-Sept.-					
1926			10,534		
1927			10,633		

Compiled from the Brewers' Almanack, 1928.
a/ Conversions made at yearly average rates of exchange as reported by Federal Reserve Board. b/ Calculated according to the number of standard barrels charged with beer duty. c/ These figures apparently include consumption of imported as well as domestic hops. d/ Prices under hop control.

Continental Europe

The growth of the hop plants on the European continent was retarded by cold and rainy weather which lasted nearly to the end of June, according to John Barth and Son. Later conditions improved the crop somewhat but by the middle of August the expectation was for a yield less than in 1927. Vermin and diseases which had been prevalent up to the middle of July disappeared in August, but the red spider was beginning to appear in some regions. Rains the first of August improved conditions somewhat but further rain was needed. In countries which last year suffered from peronospora this pest has appeared again and is being fought persistently by the farmers. Czechoslovakia, Alsace and Germany suffered particularly from this pest during 1927. Improvement of the plants depends to a great extent upon weather conditions during the balance of the growing season. The condition of hops in Zatek (Saaz) and other parts of Czechoslovakia was reported as satisfactory up to the first of July, according to the Consular service, although the growth was somewhat retarded by a cold spell and plants were infested by lice.

Hop production in Continental European countries reported for 1927, exclusive of Belgium, amounts to 64,300,000 to 64,900,000 pounds, according to latest reports compared with 42,792,000 pounds in the same countries in 1926 and 43,152,000 pounds in 1925. Production of hops in these countries competes to only a very limited extent with United States hops.

HOPS: Acreage and production in specified countries, average 1909-1913, annual 1924-1927

Country	Average 1909-1913 a/	1924	1925	1926	1927
ACREAGE	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
North America -					
Canada b/	c/ 718	507	507	594	1,037
United States d/	e/ 45,000	20,350	20,350	20,800	24,600
Europe -					
England and Wales	33,797	25,897	26,256	25,599	23,004
Belgium	5,313	3,123	3,155	3,501	3,744
Total above countries	84,828	49,877	50,268	50,494	52,385
France	17,072	10,052	10,267	10,939	11,977
Germany	56,267	28,738	30,821	35,012	38,318
Austria	f/ 6,210	264	277	279	g/ 773
Czechoslovakia	38,385	20,242	22,343	25,911	31,130
Yugoslavia	3,749	5,503	5,019	10,210	22,000
Hungary	f/ 628	178	106	86	---
Rumania	f/ 664	g/ 371	---	---	---
Poland	11,963	4,964	6,175	5,263	6,373
Russia	---	---	---	---	---
Total Eur. count. rept'g all periods shown, excl England and Belgium	133,646	69,763	74,902	87,614	110,571
Oceania -					
Australia	1,251	1,806	1,732		
New Zealand	653	738	648	636	
Total all count. rept'g. all periods shown	218,474	119,640	125,170	138,108	172,956
Estimated world total, excl. Russia h/	222,000	123,000	128,000	141,000	

Continued -

HOPS: Acreage and production in specified countries, average 1909-1913, annual 1924-1927, Cont'd.

Country	Average 1909-1913 a/	1924	1925	1926	1927
PRODUCTION	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
North America -					
Canada	1,026	813	848	966	1,426
United States	e/53,654	27,670	28,573	31,522	29,794
Europe -					
England and Wales	33,021	49,840	39,760	37,184	28,560
Belgium	7,008	5,478	5,609	5,012	5,724
Total above count.	94,709	83,801	74,790	74,684	65,504
France	13,459	11,187	11,069	8,881	11,521
Germany	28,961	12,418	10,646	5,562	15,827
Austria	f/ 3,560	93	107	86	331
Czechoslovakia	22,997	21,967	15,508	21,316	23,922
Hungary	f/ 511	106	66	45	
Yugoslavia	2,718	4,818	2,439	3,781	8,312
Rumania	f/ 548	220	207	---	---
Poland	5,897	3,243	3,383	3,164	g/4,410-4,960
Russia	6,797	---	---	---	i/ 6,753
Total Eur. count. rept'g. all periods shown, excl. England and Belgium	77,592	53,726	43,152	42,792	64,323-64,873
Oceania -					
Australia	1,607	2,700	2,184	1,680	
New Zealand	j/ (950)	1,138	751	896	
Total all count. reporting all periods shown	172,301	137,527	117,942	117,474	129,827-130,377
Estimated world total, excluding Russia	176,000	142,000	121,000	120,000	

Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture except as otherwise stated. Production figures are for the crop harvested in the calendar year in the Northern Hemisphere and the succeeding harvest in the Southern Hemisphere.

a/ Figures for Europe are estimated for present boundaries. b/ British Columbia. c/ Two-year average. d/ Principal producing states. e/ One year only. f/ Four-year average. g/ Unofficial. h/ Exclusive of minor countries for which no data are available. i/ Ukraine only. Most of the Russian crop is grown here. j/ Rough estimate of production for one year based on acreage for that year and yield in later years.

----------0----------

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
H-18

October 29, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON HOPS

- - - - - - - -

THE HOP MARKET SITUATION

A good market for United States hops abroad is indicated by a crop in the United Kingdom 1,456,000 pounds below that of 1927, together with reduced stocks of old hops.

The production of hops in the United States and Canada in the current year is well above that of last year. The United States crop is placed at 31,810,000 pounds as compared with 29,794,000 pounds produced in 1927, according to the United States crop report of October 9. No estimate has been received for the Canadian crop but as previously stated there will be an additional 332 acres of hops in bearing this year indicating a total acreage of 1,369 acres as compared with 1,037 acres reported for 1927. (See F.S./H-17, August 31, 1928.)

Reports from Continental Europe indicate a crop below that of 1927. While no definite figures have been received, trade reports state that unfavorable weather conditions during the growing season resulted in a low yield. The quality of the hops harvested, however, is said to be very satisfactory.

The production of hops in England and Wales in 1928 is estimated at 27,104,000 pounds from an acreage of 23,762 acres, according to a cable to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Agricultural Commissioner E. A. Foley. This year's crop is 5.1 per cent below that of 1927 and is the smallest one harvested since 1923 when 25,648,000 pounds were produced. The yield per acre this year was unusually low, being only 1,[illegible] pounds per acre as compared with a yield of 1,242 pounds in 1927 and 1,313 pounds the average yield for the 10 year period 1918-1927. The low yield for the current year was due to unfavorable weather conditions during the growing season. The quality of the crop, however, is said to be very good, according to trade reports.

Acreage and production of hops in England in recent years has been as follows:

Year	Acreage	Production
	Acres	1,000 pounds
1924	25,897	49,728
1925	26,256	39,760
1926	25,599	37,184
1927	23,004	28,560
1928	23,762	27,104

The low crop harvested this year together with the reported decrease in stocks will probably mean increased hop imports into the United Kingdom during the coming year. The United States has been the most important source of British hop imports in the past years and will probably continue to be so, since, in spite of the preferential rate of about 5 cents per pound enjoyed by the British countries, imports from the United States to the United Kingdom rose from 4,726,000 pounds in the crop year beginning September 1, 1926 to 6,066,000 pounds in the crop year beginning September 1, 1927. In the table given below the drop in imports from 1924-25 to 1925-26 was probably due to the large accumulation of stocks rather than to the tariff on hop imports which went into effect August 15, 1925. Imports into the United Kingdom from British possessions have been between 11 and 17 per cent of the total imports during the last three seasons, and of this amount Canada has supplied over 50 per cent. With the increased acreage devoted to hops in Canada imports from this source may increase. Canada, however, is also a heavy importer of hops and it may mean that Canadian imports will fall off rather than that the exports will show an increase.

Foreign trade in hops in the United Kingdom during the last four seasons is given below:

Year beginning September 1	Imports				Exports
	From United States	From other foreign countries	From British countries	Total	
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1924	8,417	a/	a/	10,064	4,623
1925	4,162	196	538	4,896	9,583
1926	4,726	112	973	5,811	6,948
1927	6,066	3,504	1,397	10,967	2,253

a/ Not separately stated.

----------0----------

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F. S.
H - 19

November 7, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON HOPS

- - - -

PRODUCTION OF HOPS IN GERMANY SHOWS INCREASE

The production of hops in Germany this year is estimated at 18,446,000 pounds, or 16.5 per cent above that of 1927, according to a cable to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. This is the largest crop harvested since 1915, when 22,857,000 pounds were harvested from an acreage of 47,364 acres. The increase in production over last year is due to a large yield per acre as compared with other years, the acreage this year being placed at 38,048 acres as compared with 38,318 harvested in 1927. The cultivation of hops in Germany continues to be well below the pre-war average; the acreage, however, has been gradually increasing within recent years.

Germany produces a mild type of hops, similar to that grown in Czechoslovakia, which does not normally enter into competition in the British market with the strong flavored type produced in the United States and Canada.

Acreage and production of hops in Germany since 1923 as compared with the pre-war average is given below:

Year	Acreage	Production
	Acres	1,000 pounds
Average, 1911 - 1913	56,267	28,961
1923	28,691	7,011
1924	28,738	12,418
1925	30,821	10,646
1926	35,012	5,562
1927	38,318	15,827
1928	38,048	18,446

----------0----------

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
H-20

November 10, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON HOPS

- - - - - -

PRODUCTION OF HOPS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The 1928 hop crop of Czechoslovakia is estimated at 17,368,000 pounds, which is 35.4 per cent below the large crop of 23,922,000 pounds harvested in 1927, according to a cable to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from the International Institute of Agriculture. An early estimate reported by the Institute placed the crop at 15,432,000 pounds. The quality of this year's crop is said to be very good. Czechoslovakia produces a very choice type of mild flavored hops which does not normally enter into competition with the strong flavored type produced in the United States and Canada.

Acreage and production of hops in Czechoslovakia within recent years are given below.

Year	Acreage	Production
	Acres	1,000 pounds
1923	19,177	6,819
1924	20,242	21,967
1925	22,343	15,508
1926	25,911	21,316
1927	31,130	23,922
1928	---	17,368

----------o----------